Point Reyes Station CA 94956

415-464-5100 phone 415-663-8132 fax

Point Reyes National Seashore News Release

October 2, 2002 For Immediate Release John A. Dell'Osso 415-464-5135

Giacomini Wetlands to be Discussed at Citizen's Advisory Commission Meeting

The National Park Service is beginning planning for a wetlands restoration project at the Giacomini Ranch in Marin County, California. To initiate the public scoping process, Point Reyes National Seashore will be holding a public scoping as an agenda item at the next Citizens Advisory Commission meeting for Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Saturday, October 19, 2002, at the Dance Palace Community Center in Point Reyes Station. Other agenda items include Pampass Grass and Ice Plant Removal Projects at the National Seashore, and Superintendent's Report on the Rehabilitation the Point Reyes Lighthouse and Wildland Urban Interface Program.

The purpose of Giacomini Ranch Wetlands Restoration public scoping is to elicit early public comment on issues and areas of concern related to the project, including a suitable range of alternatives, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts and benefits, and appropriate mitigation strategies. The National Park Service anticipates that alternatives for restoration of the Project Area would likely involve some type of geomorphic/topographic alterations aimed at restoring natural hydrologic and ecological processes. These potential alterations could change the current hydrologic regime and lead to either to muted tidal action, full tidal action, and/or natural creek action (i.e., allowing creeks to meander naturally).

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide comments or suggestions. Written comments regarding the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project should be provided no later than 45 days following publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. The closing date for public comments is Friday, November 8, 2002. *Written* comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes, CA 94956, or they may be emailed to ann_nelson@nps.gov.

If individuals submitting comments request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There may also be circumstances wherein the National Park Service will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always, the National Park Service will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Anonymous comments may not be considered.

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